

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SNM-02 ARAE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4295

INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: BOLIVIAN REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON ARREST OF SANCHEZ
BELLO, BOLIVIAN NATIONAL BEARING DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT.

1. ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION HAVE RECEIVED OFFICIAL REQUESTS FROM BOLIVIAN POLICE AND INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIALS FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING MAXIMUM INFORMATION ON CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING ARREST IN MONTREAL OF ALBERTO SANCHEZ BELLO, A BOLIVIAN NATIONAL WHO WAS BEARING A BOLIVIAN DEPLOMATIC PASSPORT. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS FROM OUR REPORTING, WIDESPREAD PUBLICITY ON THIS ARREST HAS LED DIRECTLY TO THE RESIGNATION OF EDWARD TAPIA, LEADING BARRIENTISTA, FROM POSITION OF SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE PRESIDENCY. TAPIA REQUESTED FOREIGN MINISTRY TO ISSUE DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT AND PRESIDENT, REPORTEDLY INCENSED AT ENTIRE CASE, CALLED FOR HIS RESIGNATION.

2. WHILE I HAVE NO OBJECTION TO USG AGENCIES HERE, IN WASHINGTON, OR IN CANADA, COOPERATING WITH REQUEST OF THE BOLIVIAN AUTHORITIES, I HAVE INSISTED TO THE ELEMENTS OF THIS MISSION RECEIVING THE REQUEST THAT TWO CONDITIONS BE RESPECTED. FIRST, THE EXPLICIT APPROVAL FROM CANADIAN AUTHORITIES MUST BE OBTAINED BEFORE INFORMATION OBTAINED IN CANADA FROM CANADIAN OFFICIALS IS PASSED TO BOLIVIAN OFFICIALS. SECOND, NO SUGGESTION SHOULD BE MADE ON THE PART OF USG OFFICIALS TO CANADIANS THAT A "DEAL"

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BE MADE WITH SANCHEZ BELLO TO EXCHANGE A MORE FAVORABLE JUDICIAL

TREATMENT FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION. I AM CONVINCED THAT ANY SUCH INTERVENTION ON OUR PART WOULD BECOME KNOWN HERE AND WOULD CAUSE SERIOUSLY ADVERSE POLITICAL IMPACT ON OUR INTERESTS. NOT THE LEAST WOULD BE TO LESSEN OUR CREDIBILITY IN DEALING WITH BOLIVIANS ON DRUG TRAFFICKING MATTERS. IT SHOULD BE NOTED AT THIS TIME THAT BOLIVIANS ARE CLEANING HOUSE OF CORRUPT JUDGES AND CORRUPT POLICE OFFICIALS. WE MUST NOT ENGAGE IN OR APPEAR TO ENGAGE IN A COVER-UP INVOLVING THIS PARTICULAR CASE, IN MY VIEW.

3. I WOULD DEEPLY APPRECIATE COOPERATION IN WASHINGTON AND IN MONTREAL WITH REGARD TO THE MATTERS I HAVE SET FORTH IN THIS TELEGRAM.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

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